

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for consideration given the present application. Claims 1-7, 9, 10 and 31 are currently pending. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 31 has been added through this Reply. Claim 1 is independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the amendment and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

Amendment

The amendments to the claims do not add any new matter to the application and do not raise any new issues.

The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,180,626 to Gassho et al. (Gassho). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “the specific address is shared by the information processing device and the one or more other processing devices.” The applied references fails to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claim 1.

Gassho discloses a plurality of computers (20), (30) and (40) and a plurality of printers (50), (60) and (70) that carry out printing operations in response to the print jobs, and a print load distribution apparatus (80) that distributes the print load of the printers (50), (60) and (70) that are connected to a computer network (90). See col. 9, lines 24-36. The print load distribution apparatus (80) basically functions as a computer. See col. 9, lines 48-59. When a job is sent from the PC to a job receiver unit (101) provided in the printer (50) the printer receives the print job. The print job is temporality stored in the spool buffer (55). See Figs. 3 and col. 10, lines 31-45. When a large number of print jobs are concentrated, there is a long queue of print jobs and the printer (50)(60 or 70), the print load distribution apparatus (80) of the printer transfers at least one print job in the queue to the printer control circuit (53) of another printer (60) or (70) (50) having spare capacity. See col. 10, lines 20-30. This means that a print job designated for printer (50) will always go to only printer (50) and the print job cannot be automatically

redirected to a different printer based on its active status. Furthermore, each printer (50), (60) and (70) includes its own network control circuit which would require a unique network address for each printer. Thus, the printers do not share a specific address. Accordingly, Gassho fails to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claim 1.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from Gassho. The dependent claims are at least allowable by virtue of their dependence on corresponding allowable independent claim 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims based on Gassho is respectfully requested.

New Claim 31 is Patentable

New claim 31 is added. New claim 31 is patentable at least due to its dependence on allowable independent claim 1 and for the additional features it recites.

Conclusion

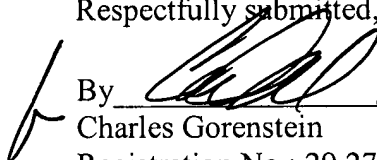
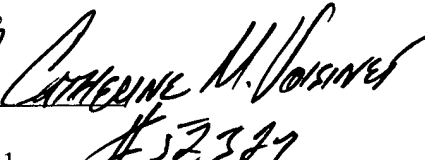
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Obert H. Chu, Reg. No. 52,744, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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